Record and Chronicle

Maintained by
THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY
for Dispensing the Family Gossip to our Members with the Armed Forces

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Well, there ain't no feature writer for this issue. We hope, however, to be able to have enough news to cover our four pages, so here goes with excerpts from a letter which was received by Dr. Fenwick Beekman from Lt. Col. Jack Sullivan from Ft. George Wright, Washington, dated January 26th. Jack writes, "We are very busy. Every day our hospital gets more patients and about 75% are overseas casualties. We run through a complete rehabilitation program and we find some place for them in the Army or teach them a trade before we discharge them. We have complete schools in all kinds of mechanics, printing, typing, radio, photography, cryptography, etc., so we have a wide choice in what we do with a man. We take some of the badly wounded and if they are good material, we keep them in the Army regardless of their handicaps..... We also start the work much sooner than is done by the Occupational Therapy Departments in most hospitals. We start the day following their operation. Most of this Occupational Therapy work is placed under the direct supervision of medical officers". He further states, "Everyone (medical officers) that has entered the work becomes very enthusiastic and when you see it in operation you can't help but realize that we are on the threshold of something new in the handling of patients. It isn't enough to just operate on someone. A great deal more is required..... Only doctors are able to evaluate the work. Teams of doctors are necessary, that is, general surgeons, orthopaedists, general medical men, psychiatrists, research men, and physiotherapists working with psychologists and men trained in personnel classification and placement. Each one is as important and necessary as the other and we have found that all work together beautifully. The Air Force has given us a great deal of latitude to work out our problem and experiment, so before the war is over we are going to have something to offer". Jack's duties require that he visit many General Hospitals in his area and he states, "Fortunately I have a pilot and plane at my disposal most of the time or I would never get it done."

Dr. Fenwick Beekman's son, Robert, finished his internship in medicine at St. Luke's Hospital on December 31, 1943 and has recently received his orders to report to Carlisle Barracks as a Lieutenant. Dr. Fenwick Beekman as hospital historian has very kindly and graciously had the issues of the Record & Chronicle bound in a very attractive binding. It will probably be saved to be buried at some future date in the cornerstone of a new hospital building, which thought leads us to report of the appointment of a Developing and Planning Committee for the hospital. The Chiefs of Service, Heads of Departments and Attendings on the various services have received a letter from the Director which states in part: "The Board of Managers has appointed a Developing and Planning Committee, the purpose of which is to study the social, economic and scientific trends in the practice of medicine and, in the light of this knowledge, to plan for the future development of this hospital". The letter goes on to invite these doctors to confer with the Chief Surgeon and the Director so the advantage of their contribution towards the future development of the hospital can be obtained. Rich Stephens, after receiving this letter, dropped in to ask the Director if he wouldn't get him a crystal gazing ball. The Director told him that if he had such a crystal ball, he would not have sent the letter.

On February 8th, we were honored by a visit from Major General Howard Snyder, Inspector General of the Army who came especially to visit our Brace Shop.

Sam Singer, one of the Walt Disney artists, entertained the children on Ward 9 last week drawing some of the well known Walt Disney characters.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE RECORD & CHRONICLE FROM FLORIDA: Drs. Earl VanDerwerker, Walter Jones, and Eugene Pool are enjoying the winter sunshine of Florida. Dr. Cornelius Traeger has just returned from a sojourn in Florida bringing with him the snow storm of the season.

A letter has been received from Major Donald Dial. He writes from somewhere in England, "My first mail in nearly two weeks brought the January 1st number of the R. & C. Like so many others who have sent you plugs, I enjoy getting it. At Christmas time, I was in the throes of departure and was in no mood to tell you that I liked the Christmas collection of autographs. It was a clever idea. On December 25th, I was in something resembling a concentration camp whence I started on a long trip. At the first meal I found Ross McCarty at the table next to mine so we had some good visits. Our outfit is at present in barracks waiting for completion of a new hospital. I have been sent temporarily to brush up on my orthopaedics with Professor McMurray. It is a good thing too, as I have almost forgotten which end of a scalpel to hold on to. I have seen the hospital to which we hope to be assigned. It is very pretty country here, cycling should be good recreation. It is incidentally about half a mile from the Station Hospital where I found Harry Kirkland to be the Chief of the Medical Service. I hope to see Bob Patterson some time but I am some distance away so may not see him in the very near future".

.....THOUSANDS OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS CHEER.....

Word has been received from the federal government that 2,000,000 pounds of dried apricots have been released to provide patients in civilian hospitals with a valuable source of Vitamin A and iron. This fruit had previously been set aside solely for military use and other war purposes. Consequently, we sincerely hope that none of you fellows will suffer for lack of an adequate supply of dried apricots.

It has been learned that Lt. Col. James B. Weaver who was an Orthopaedic Resident here 1926-27 has been overseas now for 18 months. He was through the African and Sicilian campaigns but is now stationed in England. His address is: 77th Evacuation Hospital, A.P.O. #505, % Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

We are glad to hear from Lt. Col. Higinbotham, through Mrs. Higinbotham, that although he has no time to write, he enjoys reading.....the Record & Chronicle, of course. From last reports, Lt. Col. Higinbotham is stationed at the Station Hospital, Camp Swift, Texas.

We are sorry to inform so many of our readers who have inquired about Major Joseph Shaeffer that we have not yet received any news from him or about him. The reason may be that he is too near the playground of the movie stars and doesn't have time to write. He is stationed in Palm Springs, California.

Dr. Burdick has received a letter from Dr. H. H. Rutledge who is Director of the Tate County (Mississippi) Health Department. He writes: "Dear Chief: Allow me to say how much I appreciate the bulletin that the (old) R. & C. gets out for our gang. As you know, I was released from the Army two years ago, but still feel a close interest in their doings inasmuch as I have thirteen years service with the armed forces. Any of my friends that were at R. & C. during '38 I would especially

appreciate if you would extend my greetings and best wishes to them". The letter was signed H. H. Rutledge, M.D. ("The Colonel")

The Editor has received a letter from Lt. Florence Winter, physical therapist. Her A.P.O. number has been changed. Her present address is 37th General Hospital, A.P.O. #425, % Postmaster, New York, N.Y. She writes, "I have meant to write you for some time to tell you how very much I enjoy receiving the R. & C. I think the Christmas card was a wonderful idea and it was so nice to get it. I was pleased to see that you were not too tired people to sign your names because from what I hear, you are all rather overworked to put it mildly". (Editor's Comment: It is hardly as bad as Lt. Winter writes. Everyone is, of course, working hard and trying to do their part, but compared with what you people are doing, our problems are mere inconveniences. Could it be that Brother K. G. Hansson has been writing to Lt. Winter?) She writes further, "Our tents are now quite comfortable. We have had a door put up and a stove put in so we don't have to get into bed or shiver and shake sitting around. We are about full to capacity. We have turned out to be mainly an orthopaedic hospital. Some of the gadgets are amazing. We seem to be able to make splints, braces, etc. out of anything. Christmas Day we were off, but it is a rare time when we can even have an hour, Sundays included."....and she thinks we think we are overworked. Lt. Winter must be a glutton for work and doesn't even know it. She adds, "Thank you once again for the Christmas Card".

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SHORTEST ORTHOPAEDIC RECORD IN HISTORY

Patient says she has bunions. Physical Examination: "She has."

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Mrs. Virginia Hachmeister, nee McCadden, who has been Private Admitting Officer has resigned to join her husband who is in the Army and is stationed in South Dakota. Miss Catherine Frangides from the Accounting Office has been promoted to fill this position.

The Private Duty nurses of Manhattan and the Bronx are asking $8.00 for 8 hour service and $12. for 12 hour service and cash instead of meals, according to a questionnaire that has been sent to all hospitals asking whether they would approve. They also ask that hospitals continue to act as their collection agency. We have so many comments about hospital bills being so high even at the present rates for specials that we doubt that we can continue to collect the fees. Patients come in regularly complaining and say, "My stay cost me over $1,000." When we show them that the hospital got only about $300. of it, they seem surprised.

A ward patient came in the other day to be admitted, and when he found that Dr. Francis Carr was in the Navy, he decided to defer his operation for the duration or until Commander Carr returns.

Lt. Comm. Mal Stevens stopped in the hospital on February 3rd to collect a bunch of drawings and lantern slides on semilunar cartilages as he was giving a lecture for the Navy in Philadelphia. The custodian of these drawings and slides reports that surprisingly enough they were all promptly returned.

We have received an A.P.O. number for Lt. John J. Dorsey.

Mrs. Nellie Blade Malone, laboratory technician from 1927 to 1940 has contributed three dandy pocketknives for the crew of PC 1206. Still they come. Whose next?

One seldom realizes the work that some people do for the hospital because it is done in such a quiet, efficient and unassuming manner. One case in point is the work being conducted by Mrs. Eleanor Webster, Chairman of the Patients' Library and her crew of volunteers. During the year of 1943, they took care of the literary needs of over 700 of the patients and Staff, circulating about one thousand books and periodicals to these persons. We wonder how many people have realized that we have over 5,000 books and a great many of them current in our patients' library.

Attention being called to the lack of pin-ups in our paper, the twins went right to work on one.